



Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC)
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 26, 2016

TO: The Honorable Members of the Delaware General Assembly

FROM: Robert D. Overmiller, Chairperson
GACEC

RE: **Senate Bill No. 134 (Homeless Bill of Rights)**

The Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) has reviewed Senate Bill No. 134 which will provide basic legal and civil protection and ensure equal treatment for persons experiencing homelessness in Delaware. It is intended to prevent discrimination based on homelessness in a variety of contexts, including using public places, seeking employment, applying for housing, seeking temporary shelter and voting. Local governments would be barred from enacting ordinances or regulations inconsistent with the listed rights (e.g. overbroad vagrancy laws). An aggrieved person could file a civil action for and obtain damages and attorney's fees for violations of the law. Council **endorses** the proposed legislation given the high incidence of persons with disabilities in the homeless population.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our comments. Please feel free to contact me or Wendy Strauss should you have any questions.